

## PROVIDING FOOD FOR THE WILD DUCKS

Farmers Can Assist in This Work, by Planting, in Streams, Ponds, Lakes and Swampy Sections, Such Foods as the Wild Ducks Are Fond Of.

By W. L. McATEE.

MANY plants may be successfully used as food for wild ducks in localities where now they are not grown, and this will be a strong inducement for the ducks to congregate in sections where they are unknown at this time.

### Frogbit.

Frogbit is an abundant inhabitant of some of the shallow cypress-marshy lakes in Louisiana. It produces

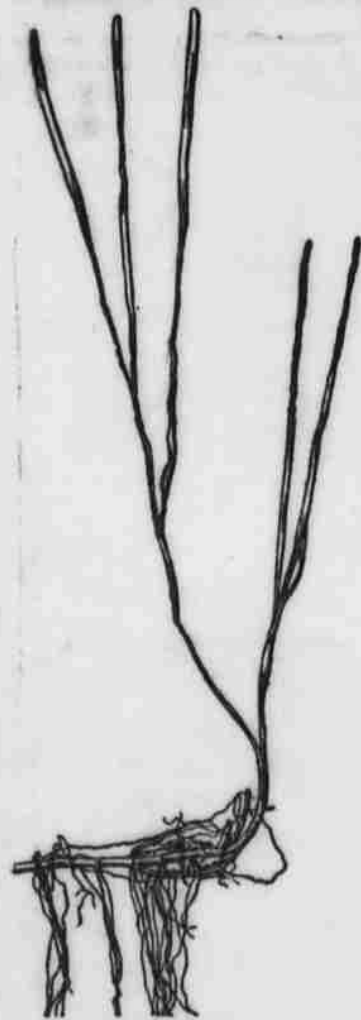


Frogbit.

spherical fruits filled with gelatinous matter in which are a multitude of seeds, eagerly sought by ducks. Nearly 18 per cent of the food of 208 mallards collected in that locality from October to March, inclusive, consisted of these seeds. From 8,000 to 10,000 were found in each of several stomachs and one contained 32,000. Twenty-five stomachs of ringneck ducks collected in December contained 35 per cent of these eagerly sought seeds. Frogbit is extensively used in aquaria and water gardens, and may be obtained from dealers in plants for such purposes. The plants themselves should be set out in water a few inches deep over a mucky bottom or in soft mud near the water's edge. Frogbit has been found in parts of New York, New Jersey and Delaware, but the normal range probably is from North Carolina and Missouri southward.

### Eel-Grass.

Few who have written of the habits of sea brant have failed to mention a fondness for eel-grass. The rela-



Eel-Grass.

tion between this species of bird and plant seems to be as close as, if not closer than, that existing between the noted fresh-water pair, the canvas-back duck and wild celery. All normal stomach contents of the common brant thus far examined consisted exclusively of eel-grass.

Eel-grass consists of bunches of long tape-like leaves which rise from a jointed fibrous root creeping stem. The leaves grow in small bundles from the end of the root-stock or its branches, and may reach a length of six feet.

The plant grows only in salt water.

### CONDENSATIONS

The coal produced by Pennsylvania last year exceeded by more than 20 per cent the entire output of the United States 15 years before, and was nearly one-fifth of the world's production.

In December, 1913, national savings in Russia amounted only to \$350,000; in December, 1914, however, after the sale of vodka had been stopped, the savings had reached nearly \$15,000.

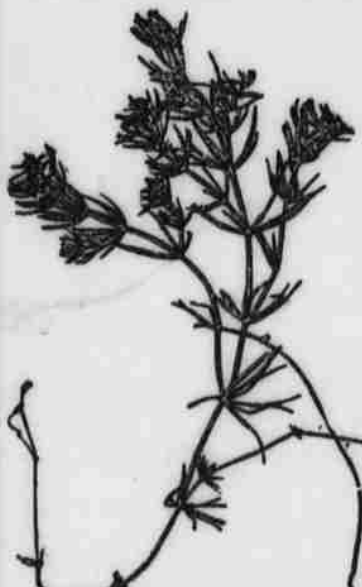
In North America it is found from Greenland to the Gulf of Mexico, and from Alaska to southern California. It is common along shores facing the open ocean, but also grows in bays, and even lagoons where the water is far less salt than the sea.

### Musk Grass.

The small tubers of musk grass are eaten in large numbers; more than 1,000 were contained in the stomach of one goldeneye and more than 1,600 in that of a pintail duck. However, all parts of musk grasses are eaten. In September, stomachs of ducks found in North Carolina contained 52 per cent of musk grass; October, 90 per cent.

Probably no part of the United States entirely lacks representatives of these grasses. They require lime, however, and hence reach their best development in regions where that mineral is plentiful.

Musk grasses belong to the great group of plants which include forms known as frog spit, green slime and seaweeds. Most of the musk grasses live in fresh water. These plants are translucent and fragile, dull green in color, and are often incrustated with lime. This has given them one of their common names, limeweed. Other names are stonewort, fine moss



Musk Grass.

(Michigan), oyster grass and nigger wool (North Carolina), and skunk grass (Massachusetts). The latter name and the name musk grass, refer to a strong odor given off by a mass of the plants when freshly taken from the water.

### Water Elm.

That trees should produce food for wild ducks is at first thought surprising, but many do, as oaks, thorns, hollies, ashes, hackberries and others; none is of more value for this purpose, however, than the water elm.

The range of the water elm extends from the lower Wabash valley in Indiana to the river bottoms of eastern Texas, and from western Tennessee and southeastern North Carolina to Florida. This plant thrives in swamps and on the margins of sluggish streams. The tree seldom exceeds 40 feet in height and 20 inches in diameter and is usually much smaller. The water elm flowers from February to April and the fruit usually ripens and falls in a month or six weeks, but it has been found on the trees as late



Leaves and Fruit of Water Elm.

as August. The fruits, which are very numerous, drop into the water immediately upon ripening.

### Watercress.

Knowledge of the importance of watercress as a duck food is derived entirely from breeders of wild ducks,

who almost without exception consider it a valuable plant for a duck farm. Not only is it relished, but it is said to grow so fast in some places that



Watercress.

the ducks cannot eat it out. Watercress occurs practically throughout the entire United States.

Watercress is usually propagated by seed, which may be obtained from most seedsmen. The plant is easily transplanted by cuttings. It grows in springs, brooks, small streams and shallow ponds. Waters in which it is found are usually cool and have some current. It may be sown in similar situations at any time during spring or summer.

### Thalia.

The writer's only experience with thalia as a wild-duck food was in Florida. Here a slough filled with a tall growth of these elegant plants was a favorite resort of ducks, especially mallards. The evidence is sufficient to show that thalia has great possibilities as a wild-duck food. The seeds are large and nutritious and are borne



Thalia, a Favorite Duck Food.

in great abundance. The leaf is much like that of canna, and may measure five inches wide and fifteen inches long. The plant is native from Florida to southern Arkansas and Texas, and doubtless it will thrive as far north as South Carolina and Missouri.

### Old-Time Library.

Just as Arlington was about to carry off the palm for having the oldest library in the state, organized in 1803, along comes Wilmington with the statement that during a recent cleaning of an attic in a law office in that place a book of records was found which showed that the Wilmington social library was organized December 31, 1795, with a constitution, by-laws and a list of subscribers. This book has been presented to the present Wilmington institution, the Pette Memorial library, to be kept as a relic. Some of the entries in the book are very interesting. Israel Lawton was fined 17 cents for dropping tallow on book No. 93. Timothy Castle was fined 6 cents for getting one drop of tallow on book No. 16. Levi Packard was fined 60 cents for tearing the binding on book No. 106, and several others were fined for turning down leaves and for finger marks. The latest date in the list of revenues is October 4, 1813.

### Changing Ideals.

"When I was a boy," said the thoughtful man, "I wanted to be the clown in a circus."

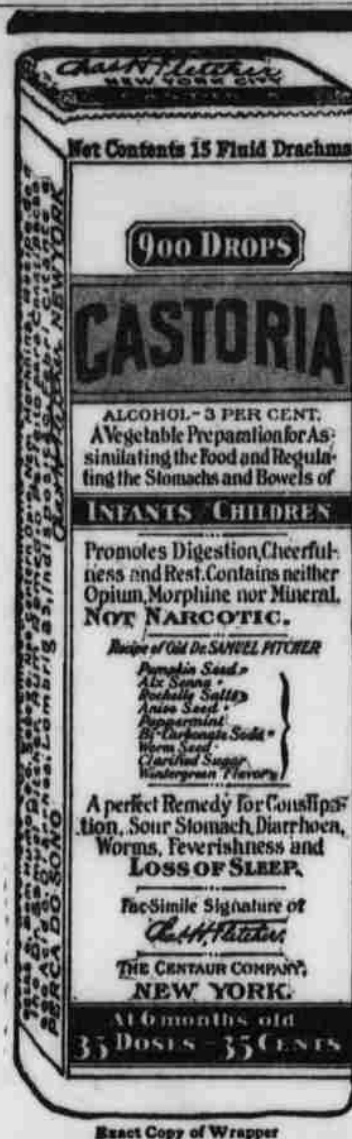
"You have gotten bravely over that."

"Yes. Circus clowns are not very liberally compensated. I'd rather be a good moving-picture comedian."

Notwithstanding higher prices, the United Kingdom imported larger quantities of sugar, tea, coffee and cocoa last year than in 1913.

Maintaining the rate of increase shown during the last forty years, Russia's present population at the end of the present century will number 600,000,000.

The opportunities for gaining knowledge in the province of Ontario are great. There are, including kindergartens, institutes and continuation classes, 6,942 public schools—all free.



## Children Cry For

# Fletcher's CASTORIA

### What is CASTORIA

Castoria is a harmless substitute for Castor Oil, Paregoric, Drops and Soothing Syrups. It is pleasant. It contains neither Opium, Morphine nor other Narcotic substance. Its age is its guarantee. It destroys Worms and allays Feverishness. For more than thirty years it has been in constant use for the relief of Constipation, Flatulency, Wind Colic, all Teething Troubles and Diarrhoea. It regulates the Stomach and Bowels, assimilates the Food, giving healthy and natural sleep. The Children's Panacea—The Mother's Friend.

### GENUINE CASTORIA ALWAYS

Bears the Signature of

*Chas. H. Fletcher*

In Use For Over 30 Years

The Kind You Have Always Bought

THE CENTAUR COMPANY, NEW YORK CITY.

### GOOD AND SUFFICIENT REASON

Colored Man Knew Nothing About Incompatibility, But He Knew What He Had Suffered.

The old negro had been arrested for "having more than one wife," the last woman being the complainant. He happened to be well known locally and an orderly character.

"How many wives have you had?" demanded the judge.

"Six, yo' honor," was the reply. "Why couldn't you get along with them?" the judge insisted.

"Well, sah—de fust two spilled de white folks clothes when dey washed 'em; de thud wotn't no cook; de fo'th was des nacherally lazy—en' de fift—I'll tell you, judge—de fift, she—"

"Incompatibility?" the court suggested.

"No, yo' honor," said the old negro, slowly. "It wotn't nothin' lik' dat. Yo' jes' couldn't get along wid her unless yo' wuz somewhars else."—Case and Comment.

### Canny Scot.

Jack McTavish and two English friends went out on the loch on a fishing trip, and it was agreed that the first man to catch a fish should pay for a dinner. As McTavish was known to be the best fisherman thereabouts, his friends took considerable delight in assuring him that he had as good as lost already.

"An', d'ye ken," said Jack in speaking of it afterward, "bath o' them had a guid bite, an' wis sae mean they wadna' pu' in."

"Then you lost?" asked the listener.

"Oh, no, I didn't pit any bait on my hook."—Exchange.

### A DOCTOR'S EXPERIENCE

Medicine Not Needed in This Case.

It is hard to convince some people that coffee does them an injury! They lay their bad feelings to almost every cause but the true and unsuspected one.

But the doctor knows. His wide experience has proven to him that, to some systems, coffee is an insidious poison that undermines the health. Ask him if coffee is a cause of constipation, stomach and nervous troubles.

"I have been a coffee drinker all my life, and when taken sick two years ago with nervous prostration, the doctor said that my nervous system was broken down and that I would have to give up coffee."

"I got so weak and shaky I could not work, and reading an advertisement of Postum I asked my grocer if he had any of it. He said, 'Yes, and that he used it in his family and it was all it claimed to be.'"

"So I quit coffee and commenced to use Postum steadily, and in about two weeks I could sleep better and get up in the morning feeling fresh. In about two months I began to gain flesh. I weighed only 146 pounds when I commenced on Postum and now I weigh 187 and feel better than I did at 20 years of age."

"I am working every day and sleep well at night. My two children were coffee drinkers, but they have not drank any since Postum came into the house, and are far more healthy than they were before." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

Postum comes in two forms: Postum Cereal—the original form—must be well boiled. 15c and 25c packages.

Instant Postum—a soluble powder—dissolves quickly in a cup of hot water, and, with cream and sugar, makes a delicious beverage instantly. 30c and 50c tins.

Both kinds are equally delicious and cost about the same per cup.

"There's a Reason" for Postum.

—sold by Grocers.

### JUST FORCED TO COME DOWN

Reader Will See That Smith's Reason for Descent Was an Entirely Good One.

Here is a story that was told by Congressman James C. Cantrill of Kentucky the other afternoon in illustrating a remark on the force of necessity:

Recently Smith hired a horse for a canter along the pike, but the animal, having neither a sweet nature nor a great desire to work strenuously, began to buck, and the rider was ungracefully thrown through the air and dropped by the wayside.

"Hello, Smith," smilingly remarked a friend the following day: "I saw you out horsebacking yesterday."

"You did?" responded Smith, beginning to wonder a bit.

"Yes," continued the other, his smile broadening. "What made you drop down so quickly?"

"Case of necessity," answered Smith. "Did you see anything up where I was to hold on to?"

### WOMEN SUFFERERS NEED SWAMP-ROOT

Thousands upon thousands of women have kidney and bladder trouble and never suspect it.

Women's complaints often prove to be nothing else but kidney trouble, or the result of kidney or bladder disease.

If the kidneys are not in a healthy condition, they may cause the other organs to become diseased.

You may suffer a great deal with pain in the back, headache, loss of ambition, nervousness and may be despondent and irritable.

Don't delay starting treatment. Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, a physician's prescription, obtained at any drug store, restores health to the kidneys and is just the remedy needed to overcome such conditions.

Get a fifty cent or one dollar bottle immediately from any drug store. However, if you wish first to test this great preparation send ten cents to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., for a sample bottle. When writing be sure and mention this paper.—Adv.

### On the Contrary.

"Employed in the steel works, are you? Don't you find your job fearfully hot in the summertime?"

"Oh, no, you see I work in the chilled steel department."

### The Leader.

Knicker—What is his motto? Bocker—First be sure you're right, then lose your head.

He and She.

Sue—Have you ever read "Lives of the Hunted"? He—No; what's it about—bachelors?—New York Post.

Smile on wash day. That's when you use Red Cross Bag Blue. Clothes whiter than snow. All grocers. Adv.

New South Wales has only one-twentieth the population of Britain.

As sure to rise as the Sun

You can't always make everything "just so." Sometimes you will get in more shortening than usual; or make the batter a little thin; or it may not be convenient to put a cake in the oven the moment it is mixed; or your oven may not bake evenly and it is necessary to turn the pan around—none of these little uncertainties make the slightest difference in results if you use

## KG BAKING POWDER

This modern, double-raise baking powder has unusual strength and is absolutely certain to raise your biscuits, cakes and pastry light and feathery. It generates an abundance of leavening gas both in the mixing bowl and in the oven. The raising is sustained until the dough is cooked through.

Housewives who use K C never have "bad luck" with their baking. Try K C at our risk. Your grocer will refund your money if you are not pleased in every way.

—sold by Grocers.